

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
December 14, 2015**

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
John Brown	Kitty Devilbiss	Mary Beachley		Joe Berman
Ernell Graham	Sue Ramsburg	Elizabeth Chung		RaeAnn Butler
Carol Haag	Pat Rosensteel	Dianne Lewis		Jeanette Elaff
M.C. Keegan-Ayer	Carolyn True	Randy McClement, Mayor		Sharon Espinosa
Tom Lawler	Ian Zile	Katie Rhinehart- Hemler		Christine Forbes
Tish Raff				Cathy Hanson
Bobbie Speace				Bernadine Hoffman
				Julius Isaac
				Louise Lynch
				Ann McDermott
				Meg Motter
				Margaret Nusbaum
				Cindy Powell
				Joyce Rowe
				Thea Ruff
				Edi Stewart

- I. **Call to Order** – Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Carol welcomed all attendees. She introduced Teja Rau, guest speaker for today's meeting, from the Maryland Department of Aging. She also asked that members of the Senior First Committee and the Commission of Aging members and potential members stand up for recognition.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – No new agenda items.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the November 9th meeting were approved. Bobbie Speace made a motion to approve the minutes and Tish Raff seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. **Maryland Access Point – Preparing for the Changing and Growing Needs of Maryland’s Older Adults, Teja Rau, Chief of Long Term Services and Supports, MD Department of Aging** – Teja Rau is at today’s meeting to speak about the Maryland Access Point program; how it has changed and the new direction the program is taking. Teja presented statewide statistics of older adults and the percentage of them that will be considered low income and in need of assistance.

She described some of the issues the aging population has when seeking services as three categories of problems; consumer, system, and fiscal. The consumer problems are too many people going into long term care (LTC) before they need to, the need for objective information for all services, and the need for individuals to plan for their aging goals/needs. The system problems include too many agencies administering programs which may mean that consumers may not be matched with their best options, navigating the public system is complicated, and staff training should keep pace with changing policies and rules. The fiscal problems include consumers not able to access services due to inflexible eligibility requirements, there is typically a wait list for most services, a lack of targeting those most in need, and funding levels have not kept pace with the growing need.

There are many different agencies at the state level and the local level. Numerous agencies are referred to by acronyms which make it more difficult for consumers to navigate. Many of the agencies fall under the following categories; health, aging, disabilities, and human resources. The MAP program falls under the Aging and Disability Resource Center within the aging category. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are a key liaison between all the categories and many of the agencies. The role of the AAA is to be an advocate while maintaining their public agency status.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center is a national initiative. MAP is Maryland’s version of an ADRC. This concept began in 2003 and initially started as a one central stop for people to go for services but it has evolved into a connection point and a coalition of agencies. Maryland is one of seven states working diligently to make the concept successful. The program operates differently in the various states. There are two sides of MAP. The consumer side allows for consumers to learn about services available to them, helps consumers plan for their care, and assists them in navigating the

system. The operational side allows that agencies coordinate between each other to assist the consumer. The ADRC is working with other agencies to develop a standardized process of communication. In Maryland the ADRC triage for the Medicaid community long term services. The populations of consumers served are older adults, adults 18+ with disabilities, caregivers, veterans, long term residents, grandparents, and older parents with adult children with developmental disabilities.

Historically the AAAs have connected consumers with services. MAP has become a single entry point for Medicaid community programs, including waiver, and is a gatekeeper of services and the navigator. The program services focus more on self-reliance and planning and less case management by agencies. It will help consumers plan to prevent crisis events. It will focus on use of public resources for those at greatest risk. The program will encourage individuals to look to themselves and community resources for meet their needs.

Funding for MAP includes federal, state, and local public funds. Medicaid previously provided grant funding but is shifting more to a reimbursement for services model. Medicaid services provided are enrolling people with long-term needs in Medicaid community long-term programs, transitioning nursing home participants back into their home/community, providing some case management to people in the Medicaid community long term programs.

Questions from meeting attendees:

Which other states should Maryland aspire to become?

There are monthly communications to review ideas. Each state has their strengths and focus. There is good collaboration and open exchange of ideas among the states.

Where will the Older American Act be in a couple years?

The OAA has begun to look at other ways to get funding into the AAA. They are looking into partnerships across agencies. They are starting to focus on targeting and getting services to those who need help the most rather than first come, first served.

Who is at greatest risk?

The focus of the senior care program is to provide a little bit of help to people early on to avoid crisis and risk. Secretary Kramer has put an emphasis on nutrition, fitness, exercise, and medication management.

Is there anything in the works for public announcements or marketing to help people plan for their aging needs?

There will be a series of ten shows on Maryland Public TV in 2016 with a focus on this type of information. Some subjects will be medication management and hoarding which will be presented in a question/answer format.

These will be 30 minutes segments

Money questions – federal participation on Medicaid? If agencies have to start reimbursement, how does the local level know what to fund?

Medicaid is a federal/state partnership. The federal funding matches the state funding. It is a 50% match. The state has to show that they are invested. The state has been working with local fiscal partners and the AAA directors to identify the matching amounts. There has also been some time studies done to anticipate reimbursement amounts.

Are there certain delegates that need to hear more from the public?

No comment. Teja cannot direct advocacy.

Assessing MAP – Statewide Toll Free Phone number is 1-844-MAP-LINK. The website is www.MarylandAccessPoint.info

VI. Director's Report, Carolyn True -

Carolyn stated that Open Enrollment for Medicare D ended on December 7th. The Department served over 700 seniors/disabled which is a 40% increase from last year. These statistics do not include December numbers.

Lisa Jacob has been hired as the new Maryland Access Program (MAP) Coordinator. Lisa is from Howard County Office on Aging and has been working with MAP in that county. She will be starting on Monday, December 21st.

The fiscal 2016 MAP subsidy bridge funding has been approved by the County Executive and that application went to the state in November. A notice of grant award should be received soon and the Department will be able to hire a part-time (25 hours a week) screener to conduct phone interviews for level one screenings and options counseling. This position will not go through the County Human Resources process.

VII. Seniors First Update, Tish Raff – Cindy Powell stated there are no new updates. The group will meet again in January.

VIII. Plan for January Meeting, Annual Report, Area Plan Update, Carol Haag Carol stated that members of the CoA have been working on an Annual Report which will be presented at the January

meeting. She will provide it to members before the meeting for review and comments. She also asked Carolyn to provide a progress report on the 2016 Area Plan via email before the next meeting so that members can have any questions ready at the January meeting.

Definition of Service Provider, Carol Haag Carol states that there are several nominees for the CoA who have not been able to join because of the general definition of provider in the previous by-laws. Revised by-laws were approved by Commission members at the October 2015 meeting and the percentage of providers allowed was not modified. If the definition of a “provider” is adjusted in the bylaws to name specific roles and/or titles of providers of senior services, this would allow nominees who are merely employed by an agency admission onto the Commission as an acting member. There was some discussion on the proposed change to the definition. **In the CoA by-laws a provider shall be defined as a senior official, owner, and/or CEO of an entity providing services and care in Frederick County.** Tom made a motion that the provider definition change be accepted into the bylaws. John seconded the motion. All were in favor.

IX. Nominating Committee – Bobbie Speace stated that there are two positions open for the upcoming year. Dianne Lewis is nominated for Chair and Tom Lawler is nominated for Vice Chair. As there were no other members interested in holding these positions, Bobbie made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by John Brown. All were in favor. A vote will be held at the January 2016 meeting.

By-Laws Committee, Dianne Lewis, Carol Haag – The revised by-laws were approved by the Commission at October’s meeting.

United Seniors of Maryland (USM), Tish Raff – Tish reported that the USM met in November. The speaker was Phillip Munley, Director of Veteran Affairs and he presented information about five programs that the VA offers to aging veterans. There was a lot of interesting information presented. The USM Legislative Forum has also been set. It will be on February 3rd in Annapolis. There is a \$15.00 registration fee. Rona Kramer will be speaking at this event. Members of the state government have also been invited to speak. The next legislative session starts on January 13th. If anyone is interested in specific bills, there is a lot of information on the General Assembly website.

Frederick County Commission on Aging
12/14/15

X. Announcements -

Ernell stated that the Partners in Care meeting for today was cancelled.

XI. Public Comment –

XII. Adjournment -

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary